



North Shore Radio Association

February 1998 Edition
WWW.NSRADIO.ORG/NEWSLETTER

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(Click on the logo to exit)

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President's Corner

Hello, again. As you can see, we are back on track with our second newsletter in two months. The credit goes to Keith Triplett, who is still looking for others to contribute to future issues. Part two of Lou Harris' "Emergency Preparedness Series" will be in next month's issue.

It was good to see so many of you at the January meeting, and our speaker, Bob Ross of New Hampshire Public Television, was excellent. We are continuing to plan good programs for future meetings, so mark your calendar for the second Monday of each month. The February meeting will feature Steve Schwarm (W3EVE), Section Emergency Coordinator for EMA ARES, who will talk about ARES, RACES and SKYWARN. Come to learn how you can get involved.

Eric Horwitz

1998 Season of Events is Starting

Already request are coming in for amateur radio operators for public service. So check your calendars. In April, of course the Boston Marathon which users around 300 hams. If interested contact me. Then comes the Marblehead/Swampscott YMCA's Ring around the Neck on April 26th. This 6K running race needs 9 operators position around the course. In May, a new event, Surfside Century Tour. This event will involved at least 20 or more operators. Like the "Tour de Cure" bike tour in June, The bike tour will cover most of the North Shore area. For July we do the Blackburn Challenge. This is a rowing race that needs allot. If you like to spend a day on the water this can be real fun. The NSRA is not the club that needs volunteers. The Boston Amateur Radio Club has a lot of events that goes up and down the Charles River.

This should be a good reason to keep your HT's in good working order. As well we should always be ready for a disaster. I glad that the Ice storms didn't happen in this area but I know that I would be one of the first ready to volunteer if it was needed.

Web Sites for the Curious and Interested

Computer Hardware:

<http://sysdoc.pair.com> Tom's Hardware Guide. This is one of the best sites for info on computer hardware. The information found here is very good quality.

<http://www.motherboards.org> - Known officially as "Motherboard Homeworld," this is THE site, bar none, on the specific subject of motherboards and chipsets. Although the site's webmaster sometimes comes across as kind of a know-it-all, he actually knows this stuff cold. If you ever get the urge to build your own PC, be sure to check out his "HOW TO BUILD A PC" pages. He offers excellent advice on what to look for in all sorts of hardware, not just motherboards. He's obviously built and maintained a few PC's!

<http://www.ping.be/bios> Wim's BIOS Page. In case you were wondering, this is not Wim ON7CW, but it's a great site if you're curious or need information on BIOS and how they work. More important, if you're having problems with your system and someone says you need to upgrade your Flash BIOS, it's an invaluable site that can save you time and money. Rather than buying a new BIOS chip, you may simply need to download an upgrade, and this site can help you do it yourself. And while the instructions are somewhat technical, you don't need a Ph.D. to understand them.

Computer Software:

<http://www.windows95.com> and <http://www.download.com> These are 2 of the best shareware/freeware sites on the 'Net. New files are listed daily. You'll find not only whole programs, but patches to programs and updated drivers as well.

<http://www.drivershq.com> This site has links to almost every type of hardware that requires a driver to run on your PC. You name the hardware and if you need a driver upgrade (for example your sound card), you can click on the sound card button and search away to find out if there's a new driver available.

Amateur Radio:

We all know of some links for our hobby, but some people have asked for sites where they can practice for exams and CW. I haven't found a real-time CW practice site yet, but here are 2 URLs that offer practice exams for license upgrades.

<http://w5ac.tamu.edu/ham-exam-v2/ham-exam.html>

<http://www.biochem.mcw.edu/Postdocs/Simon/radio/exam.html>

Here are a few of the general purpose URLs that contain Amateur Radio info:

<http://uhavax.hartford.edu/~newsvhf/ham-www.html>

<http://www.acs.ncsu.edu/HamRadio>

<http://www.clinet.fi/~jukka/webcluster.html> OK, this one's not general purpose. It's a "packet cluster" on the net. You can see what people are hearing for DX around the world. And if you just worked some good DX, there's a page for you to report it as well.

For those among you who are interested in Short Wave Listening sites, try these:

<http://aloha.nmsu.edu/w5gb/swl/swl.html> <http://itre.ncsu.edu/radio> This site has links to just about anything radio related, Amateur, SWL, Scanning, Satellite. One of the best 'all around' sites.

<http://www.anarc.org/naswa/swlguide/>

Here's one for the miscellaneous category. <http://www.neosoft.com/internet/paml/indexes.html> This URL will take you to a page that lists an enormous number of public mailing lists that you can subscribe to. The subject matters covered are amazing.

Mark Caron

Ice Storm Situation

Job Hunting?

As always, the North Shore Radio Association

Improving

While a complete recovery from this month's Northeast ice storms is months--perhaps even years--away, the situation in Northern New York and elsewhere "has stabilized and is gradually improving," according to Eastern New York Section Manager Rob Leiden, KR2L. Ham radio is no longer playing a primary communication role but continues to support the National Guard and relief agencies as needed. Hams from the affected counties and elsewhere in the Empire State "played a key role in assisting the Red Cross, the New York National Guard, and RACES activities for several weeks of around-the-clock activity," Leiden says. Hams are using both HF and VHF channels to keep open necessary communication links. The FCC has dropped a voluntary communication emergency that had effectively roped off several segments of 2 meters for emergency traffic only.

On January 23, Hams were relieved of their duties at the New York State Emergency Management Office (NY SEMO). "There is a huge roster of hams to be thanked," said Eastern New York DEC for Administration April Stack, K2ZCZ.

Hams maintained a presence in many emergency shelters; more than 1000 people were still in shelters as of last week. Herkimer County, New York, ARES/RACES EC Don Rankins, N2ZWO, said that the spirit in the shelters he visited was good. "People were doing well in close quarters. Hams have provided good support." Rankins said Hams in his area have been assigned to damage assessment teams with the Red Cross.

Members of the RidgeTop Amateur Radio Club who went to assist in hard-hit Franklin County, New York, report that ham radio was the hit of the shelters as it provided a way for shelter guests to check with family members or to get word on their homes. Ham radio also facilitated transportation of needed medications to shelter guests. John Gabrielson, KC2AGM, of Earlton, New York, spent his 55th birthday (January 17) helping out at the Red Cross shelter in Malone. Gabrielson said the local Hams were busy trying to get repeaters back on line, trying to heat their own homes, and working long hours at their jobs--which included EMS, state and local police, Red Cross, and other government agencies. Others got on the air. "Jeff Jones, K3KYR, stayed home heating his house with wood, running a generator to power his station as an HF link and spending a huge amount of time on the air," he said. Gabrielson reported that after Jones spent 11 days as the only HF link in Franklin County, he and his wife volunteered for Red Cross duty. "His wife now wants to become a Ham," he said.

In Maine, State RACES Director Rod Scribner, KA1RFD, reports that another ice storm earlier this week plunged 30,000 homes into darkness and Red Cross shelters were opened in several locations. "Hams

needs your help. Here are a few of the things that you can do for the club.

Control Operators: Learn how to be a SYSOP of the repeaters. Monitor the repeaters. Get to know how to fix a problem when the repeaters start acting up. Contact N1HLK

Interference Committee: Help them find the problem on Sunday Night's net. Contact KA1NCF

Scholarship Committee: Help administer the scholarship awards program. Contact KA1NCF

Public Service: Starting in April, the NSRA handles a series of community events and help other clubs do the same. Contact N1HLK

Instructor: Teachers needed to organize classes for the advancement of our hobby.

Bylaws Committee: Help us review the bylaws and make proposals for necessary revisions. Contact KA1NCF

Web Page Designer: Help is always welcome with the web site, especially now that we have added space. Have an idea? Send it off to the webmaster at nsrado dot org

Writers/Editors: Please, please, apply for these jobs! If you have good writing skills, we need you. Send email message to news at nsradio dot org in any format (DOC, TXT, HTML, etc.).

were on call, but normal communications stayed up, so we remained available and assisted neighbors," Scribner said.

From the ARRL Letter

What's New with the Web Site...

Yes, there is something new with the web site. As of January 20, it has moved to a new service in sunny California. Known as "SiteHosting," the service offers a much better deal for the club, and the following services:

- Twice the space (20MB)
- A POP3 account for the use of mail forwarding
- Front Page support
- Autoresponding
- Detailed Usage statistics

And all within our budget!

Next months newsletter will be the first electronic version available by Email. For those that have register to receive the newsletter by email watch you mail box around March 1st. And those have not, we will be sending by 1st. class mail and will better mail delivery. If you want to receive your next newsletter via email, send a note to news at nsradio dot org or goto the web site and see the newsletter online at www.nsradio.org/newsletter.

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